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in line with Wensinck's essay, "Über das Weinen in den monotheistischen Religionen Vorderasiens," found in section one, both supporting Becker's contention for the large influence of Christian rather than Jewish practice and ceremonial upon the cultus of Islam. Schwally's note on the *Qur'ân* collection of Abû Bekr, Guidi's exposition of "*Sunnah e Nadb presso i Giuristi Malechiti*," Stumme's "Maltesische Scharaden und Rebusse," need only be mentioned to arouse the interest of anyone at home in Arabistic studies. Geyer's work has been mentioned above. Seybold, with the acumen, but also with the acerbity, so characteristic of all his work, furnishes an important correction of a point in Brockelmann's *Arabische Literaturgeschichte*. Weil's excellent article on the method of Moslem grammarians, Hell's edition of Al-Farazdaq's Eulogy on Ali ibn al Husain, Moberg's "Regierungspromemoria eines ägyptischen Sultans," Moritz's publication, with facsimile, of Selim I's important firman issued to the Venetians in 1517, are other contributions which proved both interesting and profitable to the reviewer. All in all, in the articles mentioned, and in such as for very want of space cannot receive even so much as a notice, the volume is one which should not be missing in any university library worthy of the name, and which will form a welcome addition to the bookshelves of every Orientalist interested in the field and subjects which are graced by the venerable name of the director of the Oriental Seminaries at Berlin, to whom the *florilegium* is dedicated.

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A BEGINNING IN THE HISTORICAL STUDY OF ARABIC GRAMMAR

If at times Indo-European scholars are inclined to speak disparagingly of Semitic philology, it might be well for them first to compare the amount of time and labor that has been devoted by Western scholars to these two fields. And in the Semitic field it is the Arabic which, though by no means the least difficult, extensive, and important, has ever been most notably short-handed. One man on a faculty to cover a language as difficult as any (not to mention Turkish and Persian), with its ramifications in a score of dialects, a literature vying in bulk and excellence with the best, the history of a third of the inhabited globe for at least a millennium and a half, etc.! Small wonder that Arabists must often confess to lack of knowledge in details. Small wonder that no really thorough dictionary of Arabic exists; is not English only just now acquiring one? No one need be surprised that a historical grammar of Arabic sufficient for modern needs has not yet been written. One of the first fundamental studies to appear looking in the direction of such a grammar is Bergsträsser's book,¹ here discussed, which lists

¹ *Verneinungs- und Fragepartikeln und Verwandtes im Qur'ân*. By Dr. Phil. Gotthelf Bergsträsser. (Leipziger Semitistische Studien, V, 4.) Leipzig: Hinrichs, 1914. Pp. 108. M. 4.

and classifies the negative and interrogative particles and their usage in the *Ḳur'ân*.¹ This is the first-fruit of the labors of one of the most brilliant young men to issue from the great philological training school which centers about the name of August Fischer at Leipzig. Pages 1-67 were printed in 1911 as a dissertation and contain in footnotes a considerable number of most important remarks by Fischer, which show the extent and manner in which he controls the work of even the best of his students. For the rest Bergsträsser stands on his own feet, which this young *Privatdozent* is well able to do. So far as the reviewer has been able to examine them in detail, there are some half-dozen instances, more or less, in which he is inclined to disagree with Bergsträsser's interpretation and classifications. There is no room to list and discuss these here, and they are held in reserve for a time and place more meet, if fate be kind. In this place it is sufficient to state that the reviewer, and no doubt every Arabist with him, is happy to have the wherewithal of criticism and disagreement; here is a sign of new life. In general, Bergsträsser's work exhibits a mastery of the modern science of linguistics and a knowledge of Arabic which is rivaled in modern Germany and indeed in the modern world among younger men by very few, as, e.g., Hans Bauer. Nor is this judgment based on this little work of Bergsträsser's alone. His work on the De Goeje fund, his completion of the work of Prym and Socin on modern Syriac dialects, his phonetic charts of Syria and Palestine, etc., do not diminish the promise. He has been given the place of the late Kautzsch as the reviser of Gesenius' *Hebrew Grammar*, which bids fair, accordingly, to appear henceforth in a really modern dress—if Bergsträsser remain among the living. Indeed, if this great catastrophe spare him, as the reviewer devoutly hopes, his finely strung mind bids fair to continue the Leipzig tradition of accurate and excellent philology, which Fleischer and August Fischer have established.

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